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Gonorrhoea

By

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Gonorrhoea, may be defined to be a puriform discharge from the urethra in males, and vagina in females, in consequence of inflammation of the part. The term "Gonorrhoea," is improperly applied to this disease, as it implies a discharge of semen, whereas this discharge is owing to an increased secretion of the mucus lining of the internal surface of the urethra, altered in its appearance & caused by an inflammation of that part, but more especially, of the Lacunae of the urethra.

It was for a long time imagined, that gonorrhoea proceeded from ulcers in the urethra, nor was this opinion controverted, although many doubts were entertained of its truth, untill actual dissection proved the fallacy of this ideal doctrine, and put the matter beyond dispute. Doct. Stoll, of Vienna, had an opportunity the most favourable to his wishes, of dissecting a man who had died while labouring under a virulent gonorrhoea. Upon cutting into the Urethra carefully, he discovered its internal surface preternaturally red; two of the Lymphatics preternaturally white, and enlarged; and the puriform matter oozing out from the internal membrane, and especially the lacunae, where the seat of the disorder was, without the least appearance of ulceration or even of excoriation. Since that time many other dissections have been made, with a view of ascertaining the cause, as well as the seat, of this disease, which all tend to prove that it is caused by

inflammation, and seated in the internal membrane of the urethra, and particularly in the lacunae. That gonorrhoea is a local disease is fully evinced, not only from dissection, but also from the method of cure, topical applications alone having been found sufficient to eradicate the affection, without the aid of Mercury or any other general remedy. Writers have divided gonorrhoea into gonorrhoea benigna or simplex, and gonorrhoea Virulenta: to which a third has been added, to wit, gonorrhoea spuria. This last is a puriform discharge which takes place from the corona glandis of the penis, between it and the prepuce. Upon gently compressing the glands, the matter, by means of a glass, may be seen issuing from it. This seldom occurs; but when it does, it is to be cured by astringent lotions. Gonorrhoea benigna or simplex, is a puriform discharge from the urethra in males, taking place without any connection with an infected person. Women are subject to a disease which often puts on the form of gonorrhoea, and is sometimes attended with a scalding ~~pain~~ sensation upon evacuating urine. The disease I allude to is the fluor albus or whites. It, therefore, behoves a young practitioner to be upon his guard, in distinguishing between such cases when called to them: for by an error in judgement he might destroy, not only the character of the person, but often the peace and happiness of a whole family. If the person to whom the physician is called be of

respectable connections, and unblemished character, I conceive there could be no impropriety in terming it a fluor albus, even if the disease be very suspicious. This would be the more justifiable since it has happily been found that both diseases may be cured by the same remedies, to wit, moderately astringent injections; But in most cases the two diseases may be distinguished by proper and delicate inquiry. The gonorrhoea benigna or simplex may be induced by the applications of any foreign substance to the urethra so as to produce an inflammation of its internal surface; such as acrid powders, bougies, &c. &c. This disease may be speedily cured in a few days by a moderately low diet, and the following injection:
℞. Sulph. Zinc... xv grs. Aquae font... ℥viii. Solve.
This injection should be thrown up the urethra of males, by means of a syringe, at least four or five times a day. If it produce a smarting of the part, it may be diluted with a little water; but it is necessary that it should cause a slight degree of smarting. The patient himself will be the best judge of the degree of strength by his own sensations. We come now to consider that most common form of gonorrhoea denominated gonorrhoea virulenta. Every puriform discharge from the urethra, in consequence of a connection with an infected person, is denominated gonorrhoea virulenta

The manner in which gonorrhoea is produced, seems to me to be by the application of the infecting substance to the orrifice of the urethra, or near it. And it appears probable, that in nine cases out of ten the matter of infection is lodged under the frenum-penis, and extends its effects from thence; and as that part is the least attended to in the practice of washing the penis, after connection with women, we may account for the reason why we meet with some instances of the disease occurring notwithstanding ablution had been practiced. Hence it is that practitioners recommend careful ablution of the whole penis, and especially of the frenum and the adjoining parts, immediately after connection with a suspicious person. This disease generally makes its appearance from twenty four hours to four days after an impure connection, although in some instances it occurs sooner and later. It is first announced to the patient by a pricking sensation in some part of the urethra, most commonly on one side of the glands penis, upon making water. In a few hours after this is felt, a slight discharge, of a puriform nature, is perceived to take place from the urethra, and now the patient begins to be troubled with a scalding pain on passing his water, which continues at every attempt for this purpose. If these first symptoms be neglected, the discharge

increases in quantity, puts on a greenish yellow tinge, and in every respect becomes more virulent; the desire to make water is very frequent, and although but a small quantity be passed at a time, the heat and pain attending it are sometimes rendered so intolerably excruciating, that the patient dreads to make the effort to discharge it. A aching pain is felt in the perinæum, and a disagreeable, & frequently painful, irritation about the lower extremity of the rectum. When the disease has arrived at that degree in which the bladder becomes inflamed, it is then indeed most serious and nearly insufferable. Frequent micturation is induced in consequence of the irritable state of the bladder, and blood is frequently passed with the urine, which the anguish suffered in the dis-charge of it, is beyond description. The penis sometimes becomes sore and painful to the touch and the orifice of the urethra appears swelled. The dis-charge is often rendered extremely fœtid and dis-agreeable, and more particularly if the patient neglects keeping the parts very clean. The quantity of matter dis-charged in the course of twenty four hours is various in different persons. In some instances I have known nearly two drams but in most cases the quantity is less. The dis-charge at first puts on a yellow appearance, but it soon

changes its colour, and tinges the linen of a greenish yellow with a brown edge. The symptoms of gonorrhoea which are commonly the most troublesome, and which demand the most immediate attention & relief, are the scalding pain or burning sensation which attends the evacuation of the urine, and the chordee. On each of these I shall offer some remarks, and then proceed to treat of the consequences which sometimes succeed to gonorrhoea Virulenta. The burning pain which almost universally attends the discharge of urine in gonorrhoea Virulenta, appears to be owing to the urine coming in contact with the inflamed and irritable surface of the urethra it is a very painful symptom, and if not soon relieved, may be the means of increasing that inflamation, and rendering the disease still more obstinate & distressing. We should therefore endeavour to remove it as soon as possible. For this purpose numberless injections have been proposed, but those which I have seen the most useful and efficacious are composed of the Sulphate of Zinc, or white Vitriol, Gum Arabic & water. The following is a very good formula. ℞. Sulph. Zinc.... xv grs. Gum arabic... ℥ss Aq. font..... ℥viii. Misce fiat injectio — This is to be thrown up the urethra, by means of a syringe, 5 or 6 times a day, or oftener, retaining it at each time about a minute or two in the urethra. But as the method of using the syringe in this case may not, perhaps, be understood clearly by every one, I shall, in this place describe it. The syringe being filled with the injection

to be thrown up, the patient is to take hold of it about midway with the thumb & middle finger of the right hand, the fore finger of the same hand being at the same time passed through the ring at the top of the piston. Then taking hold of the head of the penis with the left hand, the fore finger thereof being applied upon the fraenum penis, and the thumb on the glans immediately above and opposite, the pipe of the syringe is to be carefully introduced about half an inch within the urethra; having introduced the syringe, moderate pressure is to be made upon the pipe of it with the thumb and finger of the left hand, while the fore finger of the right hand, moving the piston downwards, throws up the injection. The syringe is then to be withdrawn, and the pressure of the glans continued a proper time to prevent the liquid from returning. I should not have been thus minute in this description, were I not convinced that the cure of gonorrhoea by injection is often greatly protracted by the ignorance of patients in the method of using the syringe. In using an injection, care should be taken to avoid throwing it up with more force than is necessary; that force is thought sufficient in common cases, which empties the syringe in a gradual manner. Patients should always evacuate their urine before they inject, this prevents the matter of injection from being washed away by the stream of urine so soon as it otherwise would have been; and it also

guards against the ill consequences which are supposed to result from carrying the matter of gonorrhoea towards the neck of the bladder and upper end of the urethra. A drink composed of flaxseed tea, or a solution of Gum arabic in water, with a portion of nitrate of pot-ash or salt-peter dissolved in it, is very useful in alleviating the burning pain in the urethra. Sweet oil and many mucilaginous liquids have been used, both internally and by way of injection, to remove this scalding sensation upon making water. I have seldom had any occasion to make trial of any of them, having found the Gum arabic in every instance to answer the purpose. The addition of the sulphate of Zinc, as in the before mentioned mucilaginous injection, renders that preferable to most others, as its astringent properties are peculiarly adapted to stop the discharge gradually, by at first lessening and then entirely obviating the inflammation of the urethra. Nor need we be surprised at this practice, when we reflect, that every day we observe astringent applications used in the cure of burns and other local inflammations, and as it is now clearly ascertained, that Gonorrhoea proceeds from a local inflammation, it is not to be wondered at then, if the treatment of these be similar. The chordee is another distressing symptom which occurs in almost every case of gonorrhoea Virulenta. By this we mean an involuntary erection of the penis, attended with great pain, while the head of the penis is ~~almost~~ bent downwards towards the perinaeum, and in some instances the penis is almost bent double. The pain is so intoler-

able that the patient often compares it to the effects of an instrument lacerating the tender parts. The remedies which have been used for the removal of this symptom have also been very numerous. If circumstances require it, blood-letting general or topical, should be employed. Rubbing the penis with camphorated oil or laudanum, has been highly extolled. But the remedies most to be relied on are Camphor and Opium: an opiate should be administered every night during the continuance of this painful symptom, and for a short time after it is removed, to prevent its recurrence, due regard being had to the state of the system; for if plethora attend, or the pulse be tense or active, a little blood first taken away, will render the effect of the opiate more certain and efficacious. Leeches applied to the perinaeum are often serviceable, and will probably be found preferable to general bleeding. The practice which I have seen most useful and most immediate in its effects, is dipping the penis into a basin of cold water, during the erection. This in a few minutes destroys the morbid irritability of the part; and almost instantly, as it were like a charm, dispels that excruciating torment under which the patient labours. As the chordee is most troublesome at night, when the patient is warm in bed, or his mind occupied with lascivious ideas, this practice is a little inconvenient: yet I am fully satisfied that the inconvenience attending it, is greatly overbalanced by the relief obtained;

and I believe, that few persons would prefer suffering such anguish, to rising out of bed for a few minutes, when such certain & immediate assistance is so near at hand. This practice has been opposed, on the grounds that the relief obtained is but of short duration, and that the patient will be subject to a return of the complaint as soon as he is warm in bed again. This I grant is at first the case; but after rising a few times, this disposition vanishes, and more especially if the penis be suffered to remain a few minutes each time in the water. Having thus taken notice of two of the most prominent symptoms of the disease, and of their method of cure, it is necessary to say various formulae for injections have been used, The preperations of medicine which mostly enter into their composition, are from the mineral kingdom, and consist of the combinations of Zinc, Lead, Mercury, with the acids. The principal preperation of Zinc, is the sulphate of Zinc or White Vitriol; of Lead, the acetate of sugar of lead; and of Mercury or Calomel. The Sach. Sat. was formerly employed in almost every injection, but since the introduction of the white Vitriol into practice, it has been less resorted to, at least by most practitioners of modern times. It has been said that strong injections of the sugar of lead, very often produce swelled testicle, by an improper & incautious use. But I shall again speak of this, when I come to treat of swelled testicle.

The corrosive sublimate, is almost the only preperation of Mercury now employed in injections for the cure of gonorrhoea. Calomel or the mild Muriate of Mercury, is sometimes employed in injections, Besides these, various other substances have been employed in injections, such as alum, cortex quercis, galls, gum kino, opium, and the balsams, with a great many others, for the formulae of which, consult Mr. Bell on the venerial disease. There is one remedy I have omitted in the first part of the treatment & one which I think should be noticed, it is, Bals. Copai. taken internally, about thirty drops three times a day on a little white sugar in taking this it should not prevent your using the injections as heretofore mentioned. The diet of the patient should be adapted to the state of his system. If he be plethoric and robust, a low diet with moderate depletion should be enjoined for some days: but if he be of a weakly constitution and already debilitated, he may be allowed a more nourishing diet. I be come now to speak of the consequences which sometimes succeed gonorrhoea Virulenta. These are gleets, swelled testicle, enlargement of the lymphatic glands of the groin, suppression of urine, phlymosis, paraphlymosis, strictures in the urethra, fistula in perinio, inflammation of the prostate gland & bladder, &c. All these affections do not occur in the same person, but yet in the course of practice they will be frequently met with. It is therefore, necessary, that we should be acquainted with the mode of treatment of

each, as we shall perhaps be frequently consulted for their relief.

Of Gleet

By gleet, I mean a dis-charge of a serious fluid from the urethra, brought on in consequence of a long continued gonorrhoea, producing a relaxation and debility of the parts. Sometimes it is said, that the dis-charge assumes a purulent appearance, but this is not capable of producing infection. This is a very troublesome, although not a painful complaint, and frequently proves astonishly obstinate. It has sometimes continued for five, eight, and ten months, notwithstanding every remedy was used, and at length has dis-appeard of itself. It sometimes troubles persons for the remainder of life. By its long continuance in some cases it debilitates the body very much; but, generally speaking, it induces no such effects, and is only extremely dis-agreeable from the constant stillicidium which takes place from the urethra. As it is a local disorder, local remedies have been recommended and used in its cure. The principal mode of employing these, has been by injections. For this purpose the infusion of oak galls, cortices quercii, &c. in water, and solutions of alum, and preperations of Zinc, Lead, and Mercury, with many other mineral and vegitable substances have been used. The cold bath, and especially sea bathing, have been known to cure a gleet of long standing, and by some it is esteemed an infallible remedy, washing the parts frequently with cold water, is very useful. A gleet ~~after~~ continuing for a great

lengthth of time, often disappears spontaneously, but it sometimes remains by the patient for life, as I have before observed. By means of astringents and the cold bath, gleets are frequently cured in the course of five or six weeks; but generally, a much greater lengthth of time is required for their removal. In some instances the gleet, when long protracted, debilitates the system by its evacuant effects. When this is the case, the remedies indicated under such circumstances should be prescribed. These are tonics, such as the Peruvian bark and wine, the preperations of iron, bitters, &c. together with a generous diet and moderate exercise; the cold bath is likewise useful in these cases. These brace up the system, and give tone and vigour to every part thereof. Matrimony has, in many instances, proved a radical cure for gleet, and this remedy is especially recommended by Dr. Rush. But our chief dependance, where this cannot be admitted of, must be upon astringent injections. I believe injections of this nature may be used in every stage of gleet, care being taken not to use them of too great a strengthth, and varying them according to their effects. Seminal weakness and impotency, are said to be the consequence, sometimes, of a long continued gleet and gonorrhoea. If strick attention be paid to, and proper remedies used for, the first appearance of gonorrhoea and gleet, this accident seldom ensues. When it does come on, all that can be done, is to put the patient upon a high nourishing diet, and enjoin exercise and a frequent use of the cold bath. All provocations to venery, are more prejudicial than

beneficial, and should be avoided.

Of Swelled Testicle

We come now to the consideration of that frequent and serious effect of gonorrhoea virulenta, the swelled testicle. It produces the most excruciating torment that can be imagined, when violent in its degree; and appears, from the sufferings and expressions of anguish of the patients, to be equal to, if not surpassing, a twinge of the gout, or a fit of the gravel or stone in point of torture. This swelling is commonly confined to one testicle; but it sometimes attacks both at once, sometimes each alternately, and sometimes the disease leaves the one & seizes the other, and then returns to the first again, thus affecting each testicle alternately; this however, is a very rare occurrence. It begins in the epidydimis at first, but in a few hours time the testis becomes affected and swells to a great extent. The scrotum also becomes tense, and appears red and highly inflamed, while a serous effusion takes place and the testicle becomes so tender and painful, that the patient cannot bear it to be touched. It is very frequently sudden in its formation, and happily we are acquainted with remedies which will as suddenly relieve it. For, were not this the case, I am fully convinced the patient could not long withstand the pain which it sometimes induces. It is attended with a retraction of the testicle, while a most violent pain passing from it in the course of the spermatic cord, seems to fix itself in the lumbar region, causing the person to bend his body forward, nor is he capable of supporting himself in an erect posture.

This disease has been supposed to be caused by the matter of gonorrhoea falling down upon the testis, and hence it has been termed hernia humoralis. This idea was founded upon the circumstance of the running, in gonorrhoea, stopping upon the first appearance of a swelled testicle. But this opinion is so absurd that it does not need refutation; for besides that there is no communication between the urethra and testicles, for matter to pass, the swelling is devoid of that soft and elastic feel which it should possess, were it produced by matter: on the contrary, it is hard and unyielding, without any fluctuating of matter being perceived. The true cause of this disease I am inclined to think, with Mr. Bell, is an inflammation in the course of the vas deferens, however induced. This opinion is supported by the circumstance of the epididymis being first affected, and then the testis, and from the disease in many instances, being induced by the improper use of strong astringent injections in gonorrhoea virulenta. And here I would again observe, that injections of the sugar of lead, have been known to produce this complaint much more frequently than any other injection. This effect appears to be owing to the high degree of astringency which this medicine possesses, and to its being used in too great a quantity. The remedies which have been employed with the greatest success, for the removal of this affection, are all of those denominated antiphlogistic. If the pulse admit of it, bleeding in the arm should be practiced. Leeches applied to the scrotum and perinaeum are of excellent service, but as these cannot be obtained in all situations and cases, we must resort to other remedies. The best application that I know of, is a strong solution of sugar of lead in water. Soft linen

doubled three or four times is to be wetted with this solution, and applied to the scrotum over the whole swelling; this is to be wetted again, as often as it dries or becomes warm, and constantly kept on. Together with these, a low diet and abstinence from all heating drinks and spirituous liquors, should be enjoined. On the first attack a purge should be administered, and the body afterwards kept open by means of gentle laxatives. The practice of warm fomentations and poultices, in the early stages of the disease, is very injurious in as much as they at first increase the inflammation, and commonly leave the testicle or epidydimis in a scirrhus state. By strictly pursuing the antiphlogistic plan, this disease may, in a few days, be perfectly cured. When great irritability prevails, opiates may be exhibited with advantage. The cold bath to the scrotum and perinaeum is also employed with advantage. As the gonorrhoeal discharge frequently and almost universally ceases upon the appearance of the swelled testicle, it has been recommended to bring on a fresh running to cure this disease. This is found useful in many cases, but oftentimes it is difficult to produce this effect. This intention is answered by applying gonorrhoea matter to the urethra; or by the introduction of the bougie. A scirrhus state of the testicle, and particularly of the epidydimis, is apt to follow this disease, where proper evacuating remedies have not been at first sufficiently used, or the disease is uncommonly obstinate. When this occurs, Mercurial ointment may be rubbed upon the part; emollient poultices should be applied and fomentations used, provided no inflammatory symptoms prevail. In every case of swelled testicle the

suspension thereof should be advised from the first, and continued through the whole disease. Indeed, I think that suspending the testicle upon the first appearance of every gonorrhoea virulenta, may often be the means of preventing the swelling.

Of Glandular Swellings of the Groin.

Swellings of the lymphatic Glands of the groin frequently, are a consequence of gonorrhoea virulenta. Mr. Bell, mentions a swelling of the lymphatic vessels of the penis, as a complaint which sometimes follows gonorrhoea; and he observes, that this inflammation extending to the glands in the groin, is the cause of the swelled glands in that part. But whether this be the case, or that some of the matter is absorbed by these lymphatics, and arrested in its course by those glands, I will not take upon myself to determine; but I am convinced from observation, that the disease, however produced, is local. It is of great consequence to make a distinction between glandular swellings of the groins from gonorrhoea, and buboes produced by the absorption of the venerial virus. When the patient has been affected by chancre, the swelling is to be considered as venerial. But if he has not, nineteen cases out of twenty the swelling is from gonorrhoea alone, and to be treated with local remedies. This affection, if attended to in time, may very generally be repelled. For this purpose, bloodletting, general and ~~topical~~ topical, should be employed, according to the state of the system. The application of leeches to the part is very beneficial. Bags wet with a strong solution of sugar of lead in water, and applied to the part, as in swelled testicle, are highly

serviceable. gentle laxatives, so as to keep the bowels free, should be used, and a low diet should be ordered. Even after the inflammatory symptoms are reduced the glands frequently remain in a tumefied and scirrhus state. In this case, emollient poultices may be employed with advantage. A mercurial plaster kept constantly applied to the part, or a solution of the muriate of ammonia in water, have been found of service in such cases. Cold bathing of the parts is also useful. It has likewise been recommended in these cases, to bring on a gonorrhoeal discharge from the urethra for the relief of these indurated glands; but this appears to be a precarious remedy, although in some instances, it has been useful. Much depends upon the proper treatment of the swelling in the first stage, while inflammation attends, for the prevention, ~~[illegible]~~ of this last affection, and it is highly necessary to discriminate between these swellings and venerial buboes. For this purpose it may not be unnecessary to observe, that mercurial frictions, in almost every instance of the former affection, are of evident disadvantage, in as much as they increase the inflammatory symptoms; whereas in venerial buboes, Mercurial Ointment, well rubbed in, is always of great service. When the glandular swellings of the groin terminate in suppuration, which is seldom the case if properly attended to at first, their edges do not assume that ragged and swelled appearance which those of buboes generally put on; but there are smooth and equal, and require the same mode of treatment as sores of other parts from other causes; Mercury being never absolutely necessary for their cure.

Of Phymosis

This is an inflammation of the prepuce before the glands penis, in such a degree as to prevent it from slipping over the glands in the usual manner. It is induced by whatever excites a great deal of inflammation in the penis, and hence it often appears in gonorrhoea. I have already observed, that a spuriform discharge sometimes takes place from the glands penis itself, in that form of gonorrhoea, which is termed gonorrhoea spuria. This matter, by attention, becomes acrid, and produces excoriations of the glands and prepuce; and hence, by inducing inflammation, is a frequent cause of phymosis. In this complaint, emollients, poultices of bread & milk with sweet oil, &c. and fomentations have been recommended; but they should be used after the inflammation is somewhat subdued. This may be effected in most cases, by solutions of the sugar of lead, &c. in water, applied by means of rags, to the swelling. Bleeding, by leeches applied to the part, might be used with advantage; a low diet should be advised. After the inflammation has, in some measure, abated, emollients prove more serviceable. Dipping the penis in warm milk, or a decoction of Althea root, or of linseed, is supposed by Mr. Bell to be the most effectual method of applying these remedies. Weak injections of sugar of lead or white vitriol or warm milk and water, should be frequently thrown up, by means of a syringe, between the glands and the prepuce, to wash away any matter that may be collected there, and to allay the

inflammation. These injections are also very proper and useful where the phymosis is brought on by gonorrhoea spuria, or excoriations of the glands and prepuce. It sometimes happens that, notwithstanding all these remedies have been tried, the disease still remains. We are then to have recourse to an operation for its removal. The operation of circumcision has been advised by some, but I believe this is now generally laid aside, and that of laying open the prepuce preferred to it. For the method of performing this operation, and the mode of treatment afterwards, I refer to surgical authors.

Of the Paraphymosis

This disease occurs from a contraction of the preputium behind the glands penis; or to a swelling of the glands itself. This is a more painful, as well as serious, disease than the phymosis, and by its long continuance a mortification of the glands may be produced. The remedies for this, are the same as for the last-mentioned complaint. Local blood-letting, either by the lancet or leeches; cold water and vinegar, with solutions of the sugar of lead, are the most useful. When these fail, an incision should be made to the stricture, so as to divide the prepuce completely. This may be done by cutting upon the stricture: the wound should afterwards be dressed with lint and the saturine Ointment; for further particulars see surgical books.

Of obstructions in the Urethra

Obstructions frequently take place in the urethra, either from excrescences of the part, or from strictures. When excrescences are the cause of the obstruction, which is seldom the case, the disease is not so distressing or dangerous, as when it occurs from strictures. These caruncles are seldom found farther within the urethra than an inch, or an inch and an half. As ligatures can seldom be used in this affection, our chief dependance must be placed upon bougies. These by causing an inflammation and a suppuration in these spongy excrescences, remove them, and thus cure the complaint: but in many cases it is a long time before this purpose can be accomplished; probably bougies may act in a mechanical manner, by compression, and thus assist in removing the disease. A bougie may be left in the urethra for about half an hour, two or three times a day. The obstruction may be known to be removed, when the patient makes water without any sensation of a stoppage in its passage. Strictures in the urethra frequently produce very serious obstructions in that passage. These appears to be of two kinds, which may be termed spasmodic or temporary, and permanent or fixed. By spasmodic strictures, I mean, those sudden and temporary contractions which sometimes take place in the urethra during an attempt to evacuate the urine, which prevent its flowing for a short time, and then disappear of themselves,

often in the course of a few minutes, without any evident cause. By permanent strictures are meant, those contractions of the urethra which steadily impede the passage of the urine, and which rarely or never disappear of themselves, but always require remedies for their removal. They both seem to owe their origin to a morbid irritability of the urethra. Spasmodic strictures may be known by their appearing at one time in a ~~[illegible]~~ violent degree, and again disappearing in the course of a few hours, though in some cases, they continue for a greater ~~[illegible]~~ length of time. In every instance of stricture, we should inquire particularly of the patient, the history of the disorder. For it is often by this alone that we can be able to distinguish between the two diseases, which is of great consequence. For the cure of the spasmodic kind of stricture, bleeding, both local and general, according to the state of the system, opiates and emollients are the most serviceable: an opiate has been known to remove a stricture of this kind in a few hours. Rubbing the perinaeum and penis with anodynes, have been recommended. Warm emollients may be used with advantage in this disease. A moderately low diet should be advised. Electricity has been said to have cured this complaint; blisters to the perineaum have been employed: but our chief dependance is to be placed upon opiates. After the inflammatory symptoms have been subdued.

bougies may be employed with advantage, as they are the most effectual means of preventing a return of the disease. They act mechanically by compression: but they should never be used while any degree of inflammation exists, as by their irritation in such cases they tend to increase the complaint.

The permanent or fixed stricture of the urethra, is a disease, both more serious in its consequenses to the patient, and more perplexing to the practitioner, than any which I have yet mentioned. The pain and distress occasioned by an obstruction to the flow of urine, is almost inconceivable, while the consequences which result from this suppression of urine, are equally distressing and serious. Whatever may be the cause of this disease, bougies are among the first remedies. For the proper directions for using these, and many other observations, consult Mr. Bells Volume on the venerial disease. To do good, bougies should be frequently introduced, and suffered to remain in the urethra, in contact with the stricture, for such a length of time that no pain be excited by their presence. When suppression of urine takes place for any considerable period, the most alarming consequences are to be dreaded. We should endeavour to remove this symptom, therefore, as soon as possible. For this purpose frequent attempts should be made to pass the catheter. But in some instances, all such endeavors prove fruitless and vain. Under these circumstances, a catheter with a bougie point fixed on it,

in such a secure manner, as to prevent its slipping off, and introduced into the urethra, will often succeed in drawing off the urine. This Method has been employed with the greatest success, by Doctors Wistar & Physick, When these means fail, Doctor Physick recommends the stricture to be perforated by means of an instrument, which consist of a lancet concealed in a silver case of such a length as to reach the stricture part. To the lancet is fixed a handle rather longer than the case. The lancet being drawn a little within the case, the instrument is introduced into the urethra, untill it meets with the stricture, when this is accomplished, the lancet is to be suddenly thrust through it, and the instrument is to be then withdrawn. The Doctor says he has succeeded in this manner, after all the other remedies had failed him. It is obvious to everyone, that much nicety and judgment are requisite to perform this operation, least parts should be wounded unnecessarily, which perhaps, might induce very dis-agreeable and distressing consequences. A practice has been employed for the removal of these permanent strictures, which consist in attaching a piece of Lunar Caustic to the end of a Bougie, in such a manner that it shall be in no danger of slipping off, and that nothing but its extremity shall be exposed. This is introduced into the urethra, and applied to the stricture for a short time.

This is said to be an effectual remedy, but much caution is required in its use. In the course of five or six days, or thereabouts, the eschar comes away with the urine. This is certainly a dangerous remedy, unless in the hands of a skilful surgeon; and I think it should be resorted to in such cases only, where all other remedies have failed. The operation of the paracentesis of the bladder, is seldom performed in this complaint; as by the frequent attempts to evacuate the urine, and its passage being obstructed by the stricture, the urethra is burst, and a disease denominated fistula in perinaeo, is produced. The urine having escaped from the urethra insinuates itself into the surrounding parts of the perenaeum, and in a short time, a protrusion of the part observed. The patient at first feels somewhat easier than he was a little time before; but too soon his pain is renewed and increased to a great degree, by the irritation, and the distention of the parts. The tumour increases in size at every attempt to discharge the urine, by its passing through the laceration in the urethra, a fluctuation is soon perceived in it, the tumour suppurates, and at length bursting discharges itself outwardly. The patient again finds immediate relief, and vainly hopes his disease is nearly at an end. But alas! he is in a much worse state now, than he was before. At every attempt to make water, the urine passes out at

this new formed aperture, and continues to do so, untill the stricture is removed. To accomplish this, our only chance, now for a recovery, is from an operation, for an account of which, I beg leave to refer to Surgical Writers

Of Warts

Warts frequently appear upon the glands and prepuce, as a consequence of gonorrhoea, most commonly after the disappearance of the running. They are entirely local, and yield only to local applications, not being affected by general remedies. They are sometimes as to become very troublesome, and oftentimes painful; and as they are apt to produce ulcers, if not carefully attended to and kept clean, they should be removed as soon as possible. For this purpose the scalpel or ligatures or scissors may be used; but as these cannot be employed in every case, we must have recourse to other remedies. A solution of corrosive sublimate, or nitrate of ammonia, in water, may be tried. Caustic applied to these excrescences has been used; but the most effectual remedy for their removal, is a powder composed of equal parts aerugo aeris and savin, and sprinkled upon the Warts; this causes them to drop off in a few days. They sometimes occur about an inch within the urethra, in this case bougies must be depended on for their cure.

Inflammation of the Prostate Gland and Bladder.

Inflammations of the prostate gland and bladder are frequently the effects of a gonorrhoea virulenta, attended with a high degree of inflammation. They are caused by the inflammation of the urethra extending to these parts. In some instances, they occur from an improper and injudicious use of very astringent or stimulating injections. By early attention to the first appearance of gonorrhoea, and by the proper applications of such remedies as have been before recommended in this disease, these inflammations may very often be prevented from occurring.

When, however, these are present, they may be known by a frequent inclination to make water; which is discharged in small quantities, and sometimes only to the amount of a few drops, attended with great pain and often mixed with blood. At the same time a fixed burning pain is felt in the perinaeum, and an irritation about the lower end of the rectum, attended with a tenesmus. The remedies are blood-letting from the arm, if the pulse will bear it: leeches should be applied to the perinaeum: bathing the perinaeum and anus frequently in cold water is very useful. Ice pounded and put into a bladder, and applied to the perinaeum, has been found of excellent service. A solution of the sugar of lead in water, with a small proportion of vinegar, applied to the perinaeum by means of pledgets, has been

found serviceable. Mucilaginous injections thrown up the rectum, are of great benefit; especially if Opium be combined with them, Opium is of great use in these complaints, and should never be omitted. It allays the irritation, and quickly procures ease. It may be given by the Mouth, but it is most effectual when used in the form of glyster; as it then comes more immediately in contact with the parts affected. The bowels should be kept open and free, by means of laxatives. A low diet and mucilaginous drinks, such as flax seed tea, barley water, and the like, should be ordered. By persisting in these remedies for sometime, almost every case will terminate favourably.

Mode of Prevention.

As gonorrhoea, however slight, is a loathsome disease, and when violent in its degree frequently induces such a train of painful and distressing concomitants, it has been long an object to discover some remedy for its prevention. But hitherto no specific one has been found out. Those means of prevention which have been most advantageously used are topical; and of these, the washing the parts immediately after a connection with a suspicious person, has been observed to be the most beneficial. For this purpose, cold water is as good as any thing else, and preferable, on account of the facility

with which it is obtained. The washing should be performed immediately after the connection, otherwise it frequently fails. Particular attention should be paid, not only to the exterior parts, but the prepuce should be drawn back, and the fraenum and parts immediately adjoining thereto, should be thoroughly washed. It is owing to an inattention to this circumstance, that the practice of washing, often is of no service, for the matter of infection, in most instances, the ~~disease~~ remains in the foldings of the fraenum, and communicates the disease, even after the person has performed lavation, and thinks himself secure. I have also known the practice of washing to fail, where it has been neglected for too long a time, and in one or two instances, where it has been disregarded, even for fifteen or twenty minutes. Soap and water, either warm or cold, have been used for this purpose; also, brandy, gin, or any spirituous liquors. A solution of the carbonate of pot-ash, in water, has likewise been employed; but I do not suppose any of them are preferable to simple water. The patient before washing, should always discharge his urine, this serves to wash away any matter that may be situated about the end of the Urethra.

The End